

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously presented) A biocompatible polymer composite for use in thermally-related medical therapies, the composite comprising a base polymer component and a dispersed filler component, the filler component having a thermal conductivity of less than 5 W/m-K, wherein the composite is formed into microshells having hollow cores.

16. (Original) A biocompatible polymer composite as in claim 15 wherein the microshell cores are filled with a gas.

17. (Original) A biocompatible polymer composite as in claim 15 wherein the microshell cores are filled with CO₂.

18. (Original) A biocompatible polymer composite as in claim 15 wherein the microshell cores are filled with first and second cooperating polymerizable components.

19. (Original) A biocompatible polymer composite as in claim 15 wherein the microshell cores are filled with a drug.

20-45. (Canceled)